

SECTION XXIY.**AVATARA,**

OR

INCARNATIONS.

ARJUNA said:

1. Later was Thy birth, earlier the birth of
Vivas vat ;
how then am I to understand that Thou
declarest it
(*the Yoga*) in the beginning ?—(iv. 4.)

SHRI BHAGAVAN said:

2. Many births have been left behind by
Me and by
thee, O Arjuna. I know them all, but thou
knowest not
thine, Parantapa.—(iv. 5.)

3. Though unborn, the imperishable **Self**,
and also the
Lord of all beings, brooding over nature,
which is Mine
own, yet I am born through my own Mfya.—
(iv. 6.)

4. Whenever there is decay of Dharma,
O Bharata,
and there is exaltation of Adharma, then I
Myself come
forth;—(iv. 7.)

5. For the protection of the good, for the
destruction of
evil-doers, for the sake of firmly establishing
Dharma, I
am born from age to age.—(iv. 8.)

6. He who thus knoweth My divine birth
and action
in its essence, having abandoned the body,
cometh not to
birth again, but cometh unto Me, O Arjuna.—
(iv. 9.)

7. The foolish disregard Me when clad in
human sem-
blance, ignorant of My supreme nature, the
great Lord of
beings;— (ix, 11.)